

Questions and Activities:

Unit 1 - Severe Weather In the United States

1. Describe why the Southeast United States experiences more severe weather than any other part of the country?
2. Give an example of how weather can effect the economy.
3. Construct a Weather Forecast Office. Decide what kind of weather instruments and computers you would use in your forecast office. Why did you pick those instruments?
4. View the Doppler Radar presentation. Why is Doppler Radar such an effective tool in forecasting tornadoes?

Unit 2 - Tornadoes

1. State the definition of a tornado watch and tornado warning.
2. Develop a plan for tornado sheltering in your home. Why is sheltering in a large room, such as a gymnasium, church sanctuary, or school cafeteria dangerous?
3. Do mobile homes attract tornadoes? Why does it seem that way?
4. Go to the FEMA Kids Website at <http://www.fema.gov/kids>. Click on the Disaster Area and then Tornadoes. Read about tornado safe rooms and how kids from Colorado build their own safe room.
5. Why is a tornado safe room so important?

Unit 3 - Floods

1. Choose the greatest killer?
 - A. Floods
 - B. Tornadoes
 - C. Lightning

2. Explain why floods are called “the master of surprise” and give examples.
3. Your neighborhood is not located by a river, but your neighborhood is prone to flash flooding. What are the likely causes.
4. Most flash flood deaths occur in automobiles. Describe what themes you would emphasize in your public awareness campaign to help lower the number of people who die each year in flash floods.

Unit 4 - Lightning and Thunderstorms

1. Water and metal are excellent conductors of electricity. Names some objects that you should not be in contact with during a thunderstorm?
2. State the definition of a severe thunderstorm?
3. Thunderstorm downbursts cause more damage each year than tornadoes? How could this be possible if tornadoes potentially create higher wind speeds?
4. Doppler Radar is showing a squall line approaching your community, what kind of “signature” would indicate a strong potential for high winds.
5. Go to the National Weather Service Website at www.spc.noaa.gov/climo. From the storm reports for the United States are there any tornadoes, wind damage, or large hail reported. List three severe weather reports from different parts of the country.

Unit 5 - NOAA Weather Radio

1. Under what program does NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio and television work together to issue severe weather warnings?
2. Design a severe warning notification program. Hint: What media should it include? What kind of technology could be used to notify the public?

NWS Memphis website: www.srh.noaa.gov/meg